

2016 ESTATE MERLOT

NAPA VALLEY



APPELLATION:	Napa Valley
COMPOSITION:	Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot
AGING:	40% new French oak
ACID:	6.4 g/L
pH:	3.6
ALCOHOL:	14.8%
HARVESTED:	September 9 - October 7, 2016
BOTTLED:	June 14, 2018
WINEMAKER'S INSIGHT	The 2016 Estate Merlot opens with complex aromas of menthol and spice. Flavors of red cherry, graham cracker and candied fruit dance on the palate with a silky, smooth mouthfeel. The wine's solid tannin structure melts away slowly, leaving a refreshing fruit finish.
HARVEST	Beginning two to three weeks early, the 2016 growing season progressed perfectly through the ripening process. Cooling patterns throughout the season lengthened harvest, allowing the fruit to reach optimal ripeness with the last blocks arriving at the winery in mid October.
HISTORY	Clos du Val, French for "small vineyard estate of a small valley," was founded in 1972 in the renowned Stags Leap District. The winery was first recognized for its Cabernet Sauvignon at the famed Judgment of Paris in 1976, establishing its place as one of Napa Valley's most iconic winery estates. Still family-owned today, Clos du Val farms two estate vineyards in the Stags Leap District and Yountville appellations and continues to craft wines of balance and complexity, showcasing the fruit from the outstanding terroir on which our estate lies.